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JOB COMPLETION REPORT

INVESTIGATIONS PROJECTS

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Bailey

State of Nebraska

Project No. W-15-R Job No. 7-55

Title of Job Archery Hunter Post Card Survey

Objectives: To obtain information on the following:

1. Success of archery hunters.
2. Sex composition of the kill.
3. Crippling loss.
4. Miscellaneous information pertaining to archery hunting in Nebraska.

General: The 1955 archery season was the first special archery season held in Nebraska. The season extended from October 1st through October 31st inclusive. Legal shooting hours were from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to one-half (1/2) hour after sunset, and the bag limit was one deer of either sex. Areas open to bow and arrow hunting included all of Burt, Douglas, Thurston, and Washington counties with the exception of Federal or State sanctuaries and refuges. Since deer numbers in this portion of the state are good, no restrictions were placed on the number of permits to be issued. A total of 174 applications were received and 173 permits were issued.

Techniques Used: A letter of instruction and a self-addressed post card questionnaire were forwarded to each permittee along with the permit. Each archer was requested to complete and return the questionnaire at the close of the season.

Arrangements were made with the local law enforcement officers to inspect and officially seal each animal killed. Successful hunters were required to present their animals intact, except for entrails, to one of the authorized checking personnel within twenty-four (24) hours after killing to have the animal sealed.

Findings: Of the original 173 questionnaires sent out, 64 or 37 per cent were returned. Only four of the seven archers known to be successful returned the questionnaire. Three follow-up questionnaires were sent to the successful hunters not reporting. Two were returned, making a total of 66 returns from which data could be taken. Of those reporting, 64 were able to utilize their permits.

Slightly more than four per cent of the total permittees were successful in killing a deer. Seven deer were known to have been bagged. Of the known kill, four were females and three were males. One additional female was killed but not recovered in time to utilize the animal. Six deer were reported crippled. Including the deer killed but not utilized, one deer was reported crippled for each one successfully bagged.

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Many of the archers spent considerable time pursuing their sport. Based on the returns, about forty per cent of the hunters were in the field seven days or more during the open season, while four reported hunting 31 days or each day of the open season. Table I shows the number of days in the field by those archers that reported.

TABLE I
Number Of Days Spent Hunting By Those Archers Returning Questionnaires

No. Days In Field	No. Hunters Reporting	Per Cent Of Total Hunters Reporting
1-3	19	33.9
4-6	14	25.0
7-9	6	10.7
10-12	8	14.3
13-15	3	5.4
16 plus	6	10.7
Totals	56	100.0

Although the hunter success was low, about sixty per cent of the archers reporting were able to obtain shots at deer. The numbers of shots per hunter varied from 0 to 13 with an average of approximately two shots. The average distance at which shots were taken was forty yards. Based on reports of successful hunters, the average distance at which deer were killed was about 38 yards.

Distribution of hunters in the open archery area is indicated in Table II by counties. Washington County had the greatest concentration of hunters, followed in order by Burt, Thurston, and Douglas counties.

TABLE II
Hunter Distribution Within Open Archery Area As Indicated By Counties In Which Hunting Was Reported

County	Number Reporting	Per Cent Of Total
Washington	24	37.5
Burt	12	18.8
Thurston	5	7.8
Douglas	4	6.2
Two or more counties hunted	18	28.1
Unknown	1	1.6
Total	64	100.0

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Recommendations: 1. Serious consideration should be given to expanding the area open to special archery seasons. In view of the low success, archery hunters offer little competition to rifle hunters for animals. However, hunting deer in this manner provides considerable recreation for those Nebraskans interested in the sport. It also provides a means for utilizing limited deer herds for a high recreational purpose.

2. Questionnaires should be sent to the permittees at the close of the season. This would minimize the chances of the cards' being lost and a greater return should be realized.

3. A unit of time should be specified on the questionnaire for length of time hunted.

Summary: Of the original 173 questionnaires sent out, 64 or 37 per cent were returned. Seven deer were successfully bagged, making a hunter success of about four per cent. Of those deer reported killed, four were does and three were bucks. One deer was crippled for each one bagged. Washington County had the greatest concentration of archery hunters. Miscellaneous information pertaining to the 1955 archery season is presented.

Prepared by William J. Bailey, Jr.
District Game Manager

Approved by Phil Agee
Project Leader

Date: February 15, 1956

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